

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): An apparatus comprising:  
a rod having an end portion and a hooked portion, the end portion and the hooked portion being at opposite ends of the rod;  
a support coupled to the rod, the support including a plurality of rod guides, wherein said hooked portion adapted to string filamentous material through at least one bead having a thru-hole.

Claim 2 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a handle coupled to the end portion.

Claim 3 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a tab handle coupled to a middle portion of the rod.

Claim 4 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a cylinder surrounding the rod, wherein the rod is slidable within the cylinder.

Claim 5 (Original): The apparatus of claim 4, further including a pistol handle coupled to the cylinder.

Claim 6 (Original): The apparatus of claim 5, further including a rod cover coupled to one end of the cylinder, wherein the rod cover is one of transparent and translucent.

Claim 7 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, further including a spring coupled to the rod, the rod having a bent portion to keep the spring in place between the bent portion and one of the plurality of rod guides.

Claim 8 (Original): The apparatus of claim 5, further including a trigger coupled to the spring, wherein the trigger is adapted to compress the spring to move the rod.

Claim 9 (Original): The apparatus of claim 8, further including a trigger link coupled to the trigger and the rod.

Claim 10 (Original): The apparatus of claim 8, further including at least one gear coupled to a rack and the trigger, the trigger adapted to rotate the at least one gear.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising:  
a switch coupled to a power supply and said motor, and  
a motor coupled to the at least one gear,  
wherein the motor is adapted to rotate the at least one gear.

Claim 12 (Original): The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising one of a light-emitting device, a sound producing device, and a light emitting device and a sound-emitting device.

Claim 13 (Original): The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising:  
a housing, and  
a storage compartment including a lid, the storage compartment adapted to store a plurality of beads,  
wherein the lid is one of slidably removable and rotatably removable.

Claim 14 (Original): The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the storage compartment is removably coupled to the housing.

Claim 15 (Original): The apparatus of claim 4, further including a quick bead-loading device adapted to hold a plurality of beads in place.

Claim 16 (Original): An apparatus comprising:  
a rod having an end portion, a hooked portion and a circular portion, the end portion and the hooked portion being at opposite ends of the rod;  
a hook support coupled to the rod, the support including a plurality of rod guides, and  
a tab coupled to the rod, the tab adapted to rotate the rod through a bead stop, wherein said hooked portion adapted to string filamentous material through at least one bead having a thru-hole.

Claim 17 (Original): The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a handle coupled to the end portion.

Claim 18 (Original): The apparatus of claim 16, further including a pistol handle coupled to the hook support.

Claim 19 (Original): The apparatus of claim 16, further including a spring coupled to the rod, the rod having a bent portion to keep the spring in place between the bent portion and one of the plurality of rod guides.

Claim 20 (Original): The apparatus of claim 19, further including a trigger coupled to the spring, wherein the trigger is adapted to compress the spring to move the rod.

Claim 21 (Original): The apparatus of claim 19, further including a trigger link coupled to the trigger and the rod.

Claim 22 (Original): The apparatus of claim 19, further including at least one gear coupled to a rack and the trigger, the trigger adapted to rotate the at least one gear.

Claim 23 (Original): The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising:  
a switch coupled to a power supply, and  
a motor coupled to the at least one gear,  
wherein the motor is adapted to rotate the at least one gear to move the rod.

Claim 24 (Original): The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising one of a light-emitting device, a sound producing device, and a light emitting device and a sound-emitting device.

Claim 25 (Original): The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:  
a housing, and  
a storage compartment including a lid, the storage compartment adapted to store a plurality of beads,  
wherein the lid is one of slidably removable and rotatably removable.

Claim 26 (Original): The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the storage compartment is removably coupled to the housing.

Claim 27 (Original): The apparatus of claim 16, further including a quick bead-loading device adapted to hold a plurality of beads in place.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): An apparatus comprising:  
a rod having an end portion and a hooked portion, the end portion and the hooked portion being at opposite ends of the rod, the rod slidably coupled to a cylinder;  
a housing coupled to the cylinder, the housing including ~~a plurality of rod guides~~  
~~and a plurality of axles~~ disposed within said housing,  
a plurality of gears coupled to a trigger; and  
a gear rack coupled to the cylinder,  
wherein said hooked portion adapted to string filamentous material through at least one bead having a thru-hole.

Claim 29 (Original): The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the housing includes a handle.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the handle is has a pistol grip.

Claim 31 (Original): The apparatus of claim 28, further including a spring coupled to the rod.

Claim 32 (Original): The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising:  
a switch coupled to a power supply, and  
a motor coupled to the plurality of gears,  
wherein the motor is adapted to rotate the plurality of gears.

Claim 33 (Original): The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising one of a light-emitting device, a sound producing device, and a light emitting device and a sound-emitting device.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising:  
~~a housing, and~~  
a storage compartment including a lid, the storage compartment adapted to store a plurality of beads,  
wherein the lid is one of slidably removable and rotatably removable.

Claim 35 (Original): The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the storage compartment is removably coupled to the housing.

Claim 36 (Original): The apparatus of claim 28, further including a quick bead-loading device adapted to hold a plurality of beads in place.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): A method comprising:  
sliding at least one bead onto a rod having a hook portion,  
hooking a section of filamentous material over the hook portion,  
~~withdrawing the rod to draw the filamentous material through the at least one~~  
~~bead, and~~  
threading the at least one bead onto the filamentous material.

Claim 38 (Original): The method of claim 37, wherein withdrawing the rod is completed by pulling a trigger coupled to the rod.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 37, further comprising:  
~~wherein~~  
withdrawing the rod ~~is completed by~~ closing a switch coupled to a motor.

Claim 40 (Original): The method of claim 37, wherein sliding at least one bead onto the rod is completed by using a quick bead loading device.

Claim 41 (New): The method of claim 37, wherein said threading the at least one bead onto the filamentous material is completed by moving a bead stop and forcing said at least one bead off said rod.

Claim 42 (New): The method of claim 37, wherein said threading the at least one bead onto the filamentous material is completed by moving said rod through a bead stop and forcing said at least one bead off said rod.

Claim 43 (New): The method of claim 37, wherein said threading the at least one bead onto the filamentous material is completed by moving said rod toward a bead stop and moving said bead stop toward said rod and forcing said at least one bead off said rod.

Claim 44 (New): An apparatus comprising:  
a circular rod having a hooked portion disposed within a body portion; and  
a bead stop coupled to the body portion,  
wherein said hooked portion adapted to string filamentous material through at least one bead having a thru-hole when said at least one bead is forced off said rod via said bead stop.

Claim 45 (New): The apparatus of claim 44, further comprising a handle coupled to the body portion.

Claim 46 (New): The apparatus of claim 44, further including at least one gear coupled to a rack and a trigger, the trigger adapted to rotate the at least one gear.

Claim 47 (New): The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising:  
a switch coupled to a power supply, and  
a motor coupled to the at least one gear,  
wherein the motor is adapted to rotate the at least one gear.

Claim 48 (New): The apparatus of claim 44, further comprising one of a light-emitting device, a sound producing device, and a light emitting device and a sound-emitting device.

Claim 49 (New): The apparatus of claim 44, further comprising:  
a housing, and  
a storage compartment including a lid, the storage compartment adapted to store a plurality of beads,  
wherein the lid is one of slidably removable and rotatably removable.

Claim 50 (New): The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the storage compartment is removably coupled to the housing.

Claim 51 (New): The apparatus of claim 44, further including a quick bead-loading device adapted to hold a plurality of beads in place.

Claim 52 (New) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the rod is stationary and the bead stop is moveable.

Claim 53. (New) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the bead stop is stationary and the rod is moveable.

Claim 54. (New) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the rod and the bead stop are both moveable.

Claim 55 (New): An apparatus comprising:  
a circular rod having a hooked portion disposed within a body portion;  
a handle coupled to the body portion;  
at least one gear coupled to a motor, the motor adapted to rotate the at least one gear; and  
a switch coupled to a power supply and said motor, said power supply and said motor disposed within said handle,  
wherein said hooked portion adapted to string filamentous material through at least one bead having a thru-hole when said at least one bead is forced off said rod via a bead stop.

Claim 56 (New): The apparatus of claim 55, further comprising one of a light-emitting device, a sound producing device, and a light emitting device and a sound-emitting device.



Claim 57 (New): The apparatus of claim 55, further comprising:  
a housing, and  
a storage compartment including a lid, the storage compartment adapted to store a plurality of beads,  
wherein the lid is one of slidably removable and rotatably removable.

Claim 58 (New): The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the storage compartment is removably coupled to the housing.

Claim 59 (New): The apparatus of claim 55, further including a quick bead-loading device adapted to hold a plurality of beads in place.

Claim 60 (New) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein the rod is stationary and the bead stop is moveable.

Claim 61. (New) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein the bead stop is stationary and the rod is moveable.

Claim 62. (New) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein the rod and the bead stop are both moveable.